**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, and 20 and ADD new claim 21 in accordance with the following:

1.     (CANCELLED)


2.     (CANCELLED)


3.     (CURRENLTY AMENDED) A system providing a virtual communication space, corresponding to sensed information of the real world, between users that have sensed information that is shared in the real world, comprising:

a communication medium providing a communication channel ~~that makes~~<u>enabling an interactive</u> communication <u>between the users</u> in a limited space of the real world ~~possible~~;

a user terminal, comprising:

communication channel identification information sensing means for sensing identification information of a communication channel ~~that has been~~ assigned in the limited space of the real world,

channel login means for selecting a communication channel based on the communication channel identification information,

first communication means for communicating,

means for inputting information, and

a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel; and

a virtual communication space providing means, comprising:

second communication means for communicating;

means for grouping user terminals by assigning a communication channel to the user terminals present in the limited space of the real world,

communication channel identification information transmission means for transmitting identification information of the assigned communication channel to the user

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terminals,

user-sent information storage means for storing information ~~that has been~~ sent by a user terminal, and

a user-sent information providing means for providing information stored in the user-sent information storage means to the user terminal logged into the communication channel, wherein the user-sent information providing means provides user-sent information by posting information on an electronic bulletin board that is maintained for a certain period of time.

4.    (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system providing a virtual communication space, corresponding to sensed information of the real world, between users that have sensed information that is shared in the real world, comprising:

a communication medium providing a communication channel ~~that makes~~ enabling an interactive communication between the users in a limited space of the real world ~~possible~~;

a user terminal, comprising:

communication channel identification information sensing means for sensing identification information of a communication channel ~~that has been~~ assigned in the limited space of the real world,

channel login means for selecting a communication channel based on the communication channel identification information,

first communication means for communicating,

means for inputting information, and

a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel; and

a virtual communication space providing means, comprising:

second communication means for communicating;

means for grouping user terminals by assigning a communication channel to the user terminals present in the limited space of the real world,

communication channel identification information transmission means for transmitting identification information of the assigned communication channel to the user terminals,

user-sent information storage means for storing information ~~that has been~~ sent by a user terminal, and

user-sent information providing means for providing information, stored in the user-sent information storage means, to the user terminal logged into the communication channel, wherein the user-sent information providing means provides user-sent information by posting information

on an electronic bulletin board that is maintained for a certain period of time and providing all user-sent information that has been accumulated as history of a predetermined period of time prior to login to user terminals that have newly logged into the communication channel, and thereafter immediately exchanging user-sent information among user terminals that are logged in ~~as~~ a chat <u>session</u>.

5.      (CANCELLED)

6.      (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system providing a virtual communication space, corresponding to sensed information of the real world, between users that have sensed information that is shared in the real world, comprising:

a communication medium providing a communication channel ~~that makes~~ <u>enabling an interactive</u> communication <u>between the users</u> in a limited space of the real world ~~possible~~;

a user terminal, comprising:

a communication channel identification information sensing means for sensing identification information of a communication channel ~~that has been~~ assigned in the limited space of the real world,

channel login means for selecting a communication channel based on the communication channel identification information,

first communication means for communicating,

means for inputting information, and

a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel; and

a virtual communication space providing means, comprising:

second communication means for communicating;

means for grouping user terminals by assigning a communication channel to the user terminals present in the limited space of the real world,

communication channel identification information transmission means for transmitting identification information of the assigned communication channel to the user terminals,

user-sent information storage means for storing information ~~that has been~~ sent by a user terminal, and

user-sent information providing means for providing information stored in the user-sent information storage means to the user terminal logged into the communication channel;

a supervisor terminal outside the limited space of the real world, wherein:

the second communication means comprises an external communication means for external communication with the supervisor terminal, and

the supervisor terminal comprises a channel login means for logging into the communication channel on which communication has become possible with the external communication means, a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel, wherein information can be sent and received among user terminals in the limited space of the real world via the virtual communication space providing means, a user-sent information collecting means for collecting the sent records of user-sent information that has been stored by the user-sent information storage means, a user-sent information database accumulating the user-sent information that has been collected, a keyword classification means for classifying by keyword the content of the user-sent information in the user-sent information database, a user-sent information analyzing means for analyzing statistical qualities of the user-sent information that has been classified by keyword, and a direct electronic mail sending means for sending information that is associated with the keyword classification to the user terminal that has sent the user-sent information that has been classified by keyword.

7.    (CANCELLED)

8.    (CANCELLED)    .

9.    (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system providing a virtual communication space, corresponding to sensed information of the real world, between users that have sensed information that is shared in the real world, comprising:

a communication medium providing a communication channel ~~that makes~~enabling an interactive communication between the users in a limited space of the real world ~~possible~~;

a user terminal, comprising:

a communication channel identification information sensing means for sensing identification information of a communication channel ~~that has been~~ assigned in limited space of the real world,

channel login means for selecting a communication channel based on the communication channel identification information,

first communication means for communicating,

means for inputting information, and

a communication application sending and receiving information via the communication

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channel;

a virtual communication space providing means, comprising:

second communication means for communicating;

means for grouping user terminals by assigning a communication channel to the user terminals present in the limited space of the real world,

communication channel identification information transmission means for transmitting identification information of the assigned communication channel to the user terminals,

user-sent information storage means for storing information that has been sent by a user terminal, and

user-sent information providing means for providing information stored in the user-sent information storage means to the user terminal logged into the communication channel;

the communication channel identification information transmission means further comprising communication channel identification information notifying means for notifying the assigned transmission channel identification information wirelessly, and

the communication channel identification information sensing means further comprising receiving means sensing communication channel identification information that has been notified wirelessly from the communication channel identification information notifying means;

a supervisor terminal outside the limited space of the real world;

the second communication means comprises an external communication means for external communication with the supervisor terminal; and

the supervisor terminal further comprises:

a channel login means for logging into the communication channel on which communication has become possible with the external communication means,

a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel, wherein information can be sent and received among user terminals in the limited space of the world via the virtual communication space providing means,

user-sent information collecting means for collecting the sent records of user-sent information that has been stored by the user-sent information storage means, and a user-sent information database accumulating the user-sent information that has been collected, and

a keyword classification means for classifying by keyword the content of the user-sent information in the user-sent information database, a user-sent information analyzing means for analyzing statistical qualities of the user-sent information that has been classified by keyword, and a direct electronic mail sending means for sending information that is associated with the keyword classification to the user terminal that has sent the user-sent information that has been

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classified by keyword.

     10.    (CANCELLED)

     11.    (CANCELLED)

     12.    (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system providing a virtual communication space, corresponding to sensed information of the real world, between users that have sensed information that is shared in the real world, comprising:

a communication medium providing a communication channel ~~that makes~~enabling an interactive communication between the users in a limited space of the real world ~~possible~~;

a user terminal, comprising:

a communication channel identification information sensing means for sensing identification information of a communication channel that has been assigned in limited space of the real world,

channel login means for selecting a communication channel based on the communication channel identification information,

first communication means for communicating,

means for inputting information, and

a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel;

a virtual communication space providing means, comprising:

second communication means for communicating;

means for grouping user terminals by assigning a communication channel to the user terminals present in the limited space of the real world,

communication channel identification information transmission means for transmitting identification information of the assigned communication channel to the user terminals,

user-sent information storage means for storing information that has been sent by a user terminal;

user-sent information providing means for providing information stored in the user-sent information storage means to the user terminal logged into the communication channel;

the communication channel identification information transmission means further comprising a communication channel identification information display means for displaying the assigned communication channel identification information, and

the communication channel identification information sensing means further comprising reading means for reading the communication channel identification information displayed by the communication channel identification information display means; and

a supervisor terminal outside the limited space of the real world, wherein the second communication means comprises an external communication means for external communication with the supervisor terminal and the supervisor terminal further comprises:

a channel login means for logging into the communication channel on which communication has become possible with the external communication means,

a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel, wherein information can be sent and received among user terminals in the limited space of the world via the virtual communication space providing means,

user-sent information collecting means for collecting the sent records of user-sent information that has been stored by the user-sent information storage means, and a user-sent information database accumulating the user-sent information that has been collected, and keyword classification means for classifying by keyword the content of the user-sent information in the user-sent information database, a user-sent information analyzing means for analyzing statistical qualities of the user-sent information that has been classified by keyword, and a direct electronic mail sending means for sending information that is associated with the keyword classification to the user terminal that has sent the user-sent information that has been classified by keyword.


13.    (CURRENTLY PRESENTED) A system providing a virtual communication space, corresponding to sensed information of the real world, between users that have sensed information that is shared in the real world, comprising:

a communication medium providing a communication channel that makes enabling an interactive communication between the users in a limited space of the real world possible;

a user terminal, comprising:

communication channel identification information sensing means for sensing identification information of a communication channel that has been assigned in the limited space of the real world,

channel login means for selecting a communication channel based on the communication channel identification information,

first communication means for communicating,

means for inputting information, and

a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel; and

a virtual communication space providing means, comprising:

second communication means for communicating;

means for grouping user terminals by assigning a communication channel to the user terminals present in the limited space of the real world,

communication channel identification information transmission means for transmitting identification information of the assigned communication channel to the user terminals,

user-sent information storage means for storing information ~~that has been~~ sent by a user terminal; and a user-sent information providing means for providing information stored in the user-sent information storage means to the user terminal logged into the communication channel;

the user terminal further comprising a position detecting means for detecting position information

the virtual communication space providing means further comprising a position / communication channel correspondence table showing a correspondence between position information of the real world and communication channel identification information assigned to places indicated by that position information; and

the communication channel identification information sensing means further comprising means for notifying the detected position information to the virtual communication space providing means, and sensing the communication channel identification information that is returned based on the position / communication channel correspondence table.

14.    (ORIGINAL)  The system for providing a virtual communication space according to claim 13, wherein the communication channel login means comprises a logout means, and the user terminal logs out of the communication channel to which it is logged in by retiring from the virtual communication space or by logging into a communication channel that is assigned to another virtual communication space.

15.    (ORIGINAL)  The system for providing a virtual communication space according to claim 13, wherein the user-sent information providing means provides user-sent information by posting information on an electronic bulletin board that is maintained for a certain period of time.

16.    (ORIGINAL)  The system for providing a virtual communication space according to claim 13, wherein the user-sent information providing means provides user-sent information by providing all user-sent information that has been accumulated as history of a predetermined period of time prior to login to user terminals that have newly logged into the communication channel, and thereafter immediately exchanging user-sent information among user terminals that are logged in as chat.

17.    (ORIGINAL)  The system for providing a virtual communication space according to claim 13, further comprising:

a supervisor terminal outside the limited space of the real world;

wherein the communication means comprises an external communication means for external communication with the supervisor terminal; and

wherein the supervisor terminal comprises a channel login means for logging into the communication channel on which communication has become possible with the external communication means, and a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel, wherein information can be sent and received among user terminals in the limited space of the world via the virtual communication space providing means.

18.    (ORIGINAL)  The system for providing a virtual communication space according to claim 17, wherein:

the supervisor terminal further comprises a user-sent information collecting means for collecting the sent records of user-sent information that has been stored by the user-sent information storage means, and a user-sent information database accumulating the user-sent information that has been collected; and

the supervisor terminal further comprises a keyword classification means for classifying by keyword the content of the user-sent information in the user-sent information database, a user-sent information analyzing means for analyzing statistical qualities of the user-sent information that has been classified by keyword, and a direct electronic mail sending means for sending information that is associated with the keyword classification to the user terminal that has sent the user-sent information that has been classified by keyword.

19.    (CANCELLED)

20.    (CURRENTLY AMENDED)  A computer-readable storage medium storing a

program for realizing a system for providing a virtual communication space between users that have sensed information that is shared in the real world, the storage medium comprising:

communication means for communicating;

a communication control program for controlling the communication means for providing a communication channel ~~that makes~~ enabling an interactive communication between the users in a limited space of the real world ~~possible~~;

a user terminal processing program comprising a processing operation of sensing identification information of communication channels that have been provided by the communication means; a channel login processing operation of selecting communication channels based on the communication channel identification information; and a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel;

a virtual communication space providing processing program comprising a processing operation of logging into user terminals by assigning a communication channel to user terminals present in the limited space of the real world; a communication channel identification information transmission processing operation of transmitting identification information of an assigned communication channel to a user terminal; a user-sent information storage processing operation of storing information that has been sent by a user terminal via the communication channel; and a user-sent information providing processing operation of providing information stored in the user-sent information storage processing operation to the user terminal accessible via the communication channel;

a processing program for a supervisor terminal that is outside the limited space of the real world;

wherein the communication control program further comprises an external communication control program controlling external communication with the processing program for the supervisor terminal; and

wherein the processing program for the supervisor terminal further comprises a channel login processing operation of logging into the communication channel with which the external communication program has enabled communication, and a communication application for sending and receiving information via the communication channel, and wherein the processing program for the supervisor terminal can exchange information with the processing programs for the user terminals in the limited space of the real world via the virtual communication space providing processing program.

21. (NEW) A method of providing a virtual communication space based on sensed

information to enable communication between users, comprising:

sensing identification information of a terminal used by a user to identify a communication channel assigned to the virtual communication space; and

enabling the user to exchange information and actively communicate with other users that share a common interest via the virtual communication space using the identified communication channel.